

CI Lab Notes

From the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign Graduate School of Library and Information Science with the support of Urbana Champaign Big Broadband, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Benton Foundation, the Chicago Community Trust, the Ford Foundation, and the University's Department of Afro-American Studies, Illinois Informatics Institute, Community Informatics Initiative, Center for Digital Inclusion, Campus Research Board, and the Office of Public Engagement.

Letter to the community

A community benefit fund for Champaign-Urbana

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UC2B, the Urbana Champaign Big Broadband project, plans to help our community more than just putting pipes in the ground or to our houses.

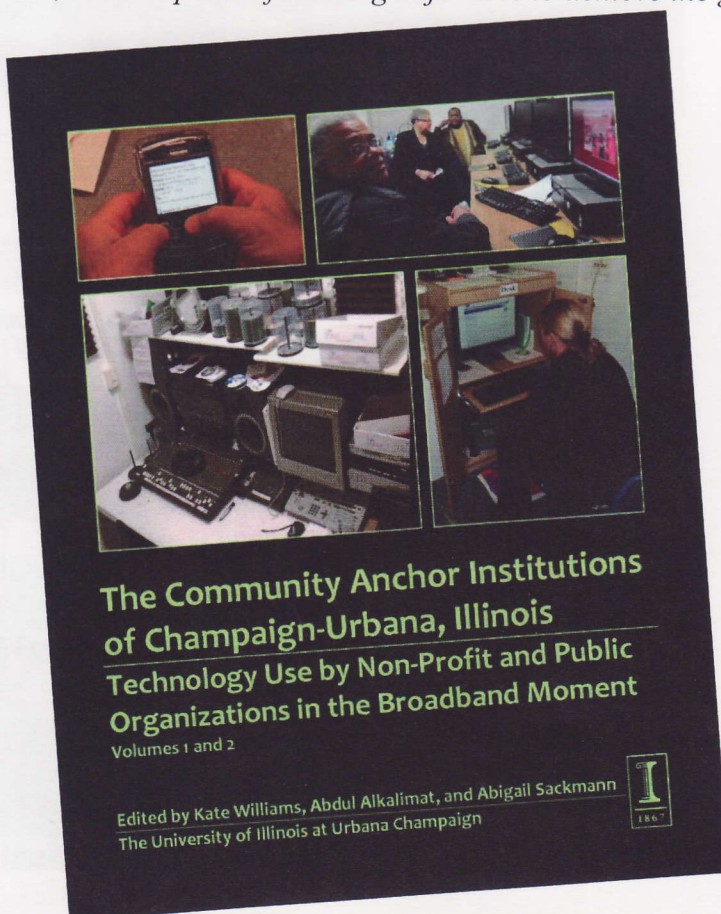
We passed a community benefit fund resolution. Here are excerpts:

A POLICY TO ACHIEVE DIGITAL EQUALITY

The Policy Board hereby establishes a goal to achieved digital equality for all people in the UC2B service area, and adopts the following objectives to achieve the goal....

The Policy Board will convene an annual meeting of anchor social institutions to discuss the above report and set general goals for overcoming the digital divide. This meeting will be open to the public and scheduled as a regular meeting of all UC2B committees.

The Policy Board sets a goal to allocate 5% of its annual revenue and no less than 2% to a community benefit fund as a line item in the budget. Money from this fund will be dedicated to overcoming the digital divide...



High speed internet is rolling out across the country and UC2B is the \$30 million dollar project here in Champaign-Urbana. UC2B calls for connecting all “community anchor institutions” and is the only project nationwide that includes many diverse organizations as anchors—shelters, senior housing, churches, and many other agencies. The first research report on UC2B includes case studies of 80 local anchors and is now available from the Community Informatics Research Lab, along with our other work: <http://go.illinois.edu/katewilliams>

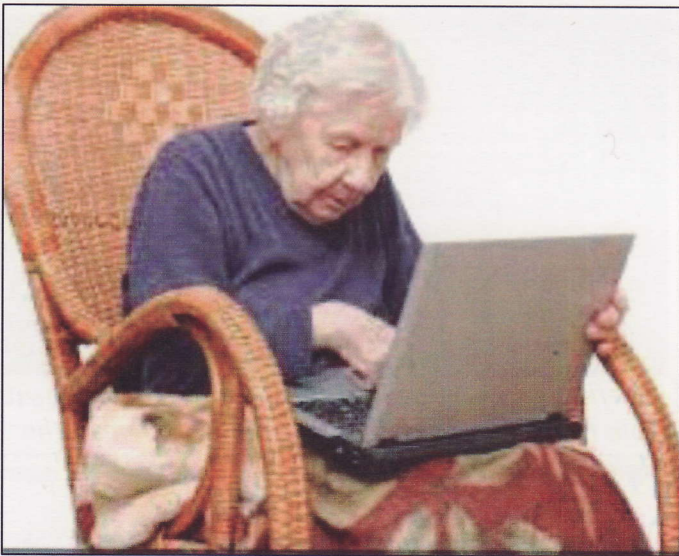
Bridging the digital divide



Pushing UC2B fiber underground.

Can you use computers and be part of how society is changing, or are you being left behind? To apply for a job you need to go online to get an application. There are four aspects to the digital divide. These apply to individuals and communities:

1. **Access:** Do we have machines: computers, tablets, laptops, smart phones, etc. Do we have the software we need? Do we have fast internet?

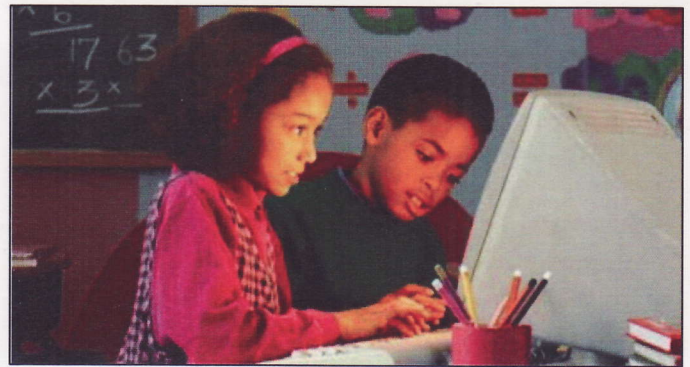


2. **Skills:** Do we know how to use digital tools? Do we just use what others have put online and share email, or can we make our own documents, video, web sites, and blogs?
3. **Motivation:** Does what's online matter to us? Do we use digital tools for learning, working and playing? Do we have help?

4. **Use:** Do we do just a few things, or can we take advantage of all that's out there? Do we go online once in a while, or do we stay up to date?

Social capital and cyberpower. We can use digital technology for solving community problems and promoting social justice for a more healthy and democratic community.

1. Our **families** can be more informed, more secure, and more sustainable across the generations
2. Our **institutions** can be better able to serve us on a local state, regional and national levels
3. Our **movements** can be better organized, better informed, and linked up on a national and international level



The UC2B Community Benefit Fund is an opportunity to rebuild community and make democracy more real than ever before.



Comix at <http://echicago.illinois.edu/stories.html>



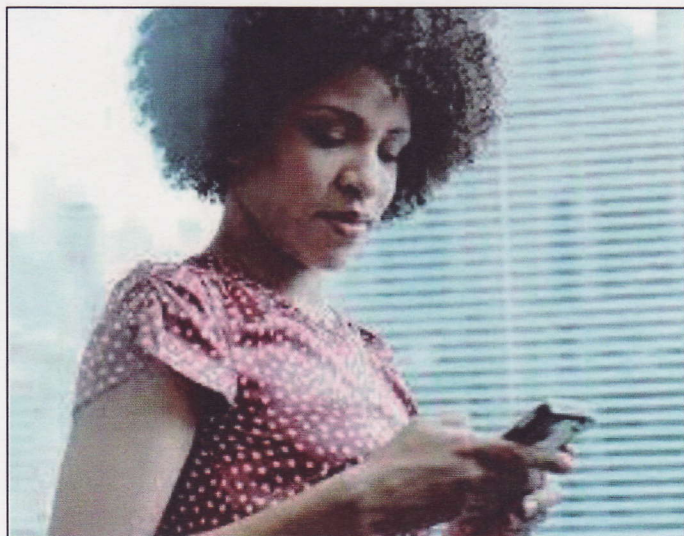
C-U Difference Makers, 2011. <http://eblackcu.net/portal/items/show/712>

A community technology manifesto

We dedicate ourselves to become difference makers!
An information revolution is underway, leading global transformation in health, education, business, culture and in the diverse activities of our daily lives.



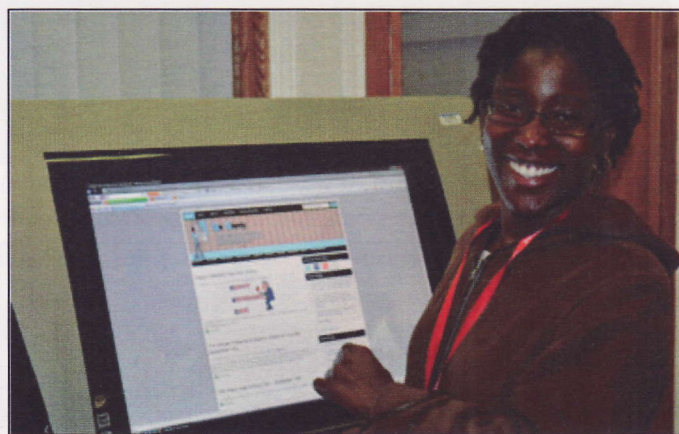
This revolution cannot and will not bypass any underserved or low income community. Every person and every neighborhood is impacted and therefore challenged to act.



We rely on: cyberdemocracy, collective intelligence, and information freedom.

- **Cyberdemocracy** means universal access: every person and every community organization able to make full use of new technologies.
- **Collective Intelligence** means hearing all voices: all of us uploading as well as downloading.
- **Information Freedom** means online information is findable, easy to use, and requires no special permission to access.

With these values, we will work together so all our communities and community organizations can communicate, represent themselves online, and use digital technology to create cyber-power for social change!



This manifesto originated in Toledo, Ohio, and has supporters across Chicago and Champaign-Urbana.

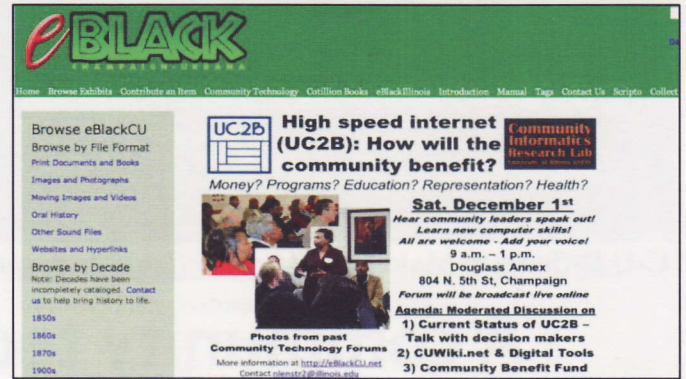
Let's do it.

Find this manifesto at:
<http://eblackcu.net/portal/manifesto>

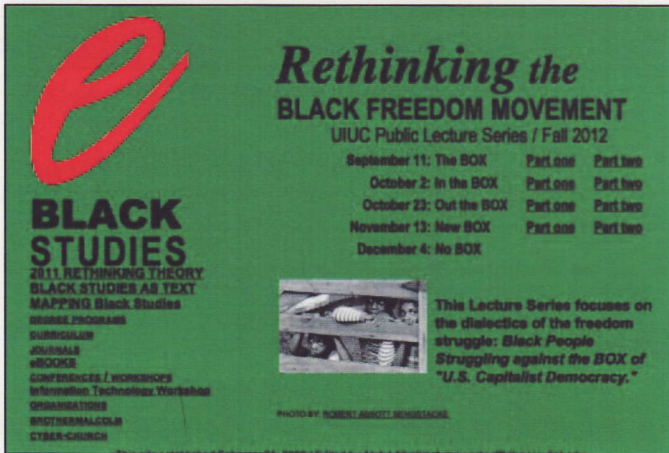
Partnerships we can build on: Join us!



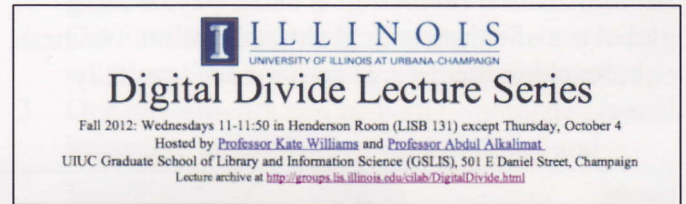
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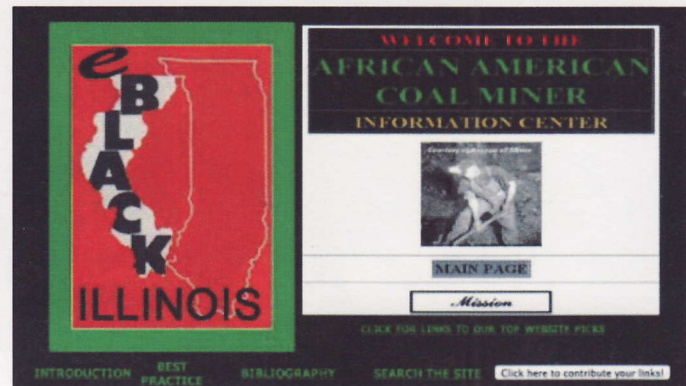
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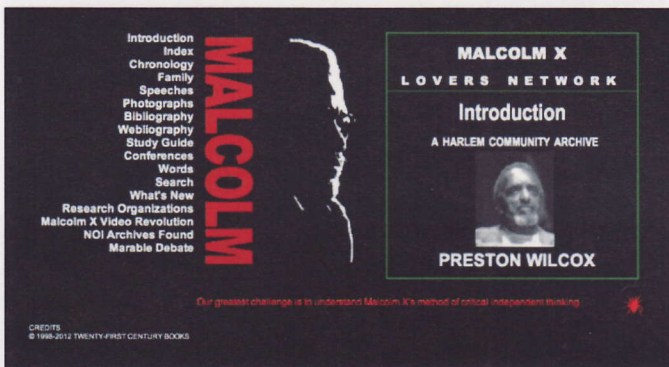
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go.illinois.edu/digitaldividetalks



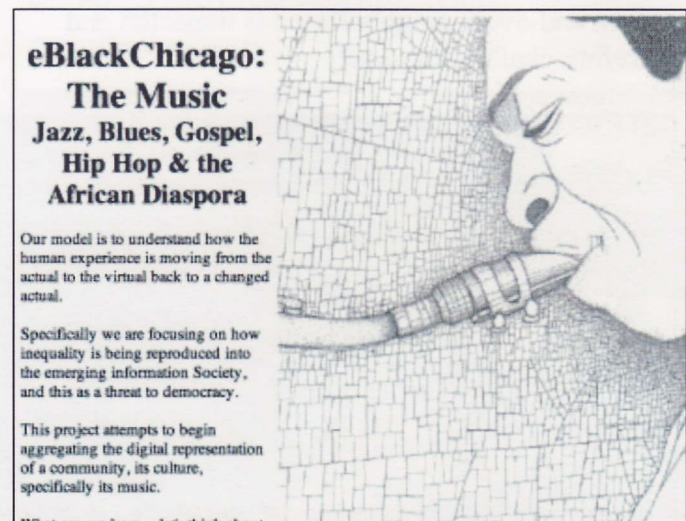
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